

[The Columbus Republic reports](#) that there has been mixed local reaction - including Congressman Pence's - to President Obama's new plan to increase higher efficiency standards for automobiles:

President Barack Obama is asking consumers to put their money, up to \$1,300 per new vehicle by 2016, behind his plan for higher efficiency standards for cars and trucks and tougher rules on their greenhouse gas emissions.

In return, Obama said Tuesday in unveiling the plan, drivers would make up the higher cost of more fuel-efficient, cleaner vehicles by buying less gas at the pump.

It would take three years to pay off the investment and would, over the life of a vehicle, save about \$2,800 through better gas mileage, the president said.

Columbus environmentalists welcomed the proposal, but local lawmakers voiced skepticism and questioned the plan's timing.

Congressman Pence's reaction -

U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., considers increased fuel efficiency a part of an energy independence plan, but expressed concerns about the timing of Obama's proposal.

The cost of a vehicle could increase hundreds or thousands of dollars under Obama's plan, Pence said, and American families and domestic automakers are struggling.

"Here is a perfect example of more government mandates and more cost to consumers," Pence said.

